



D. Johnson
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Attorney Docket No.: FL/128

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 260

In re Application of: Banter et al.

Serial No.: 09/348,416

Filed July 7, 1999

For: Acoustic Protective Cover Assembly

Group Art Unit: 2643
Examiner: P. Dabney

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Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Darlene S. McGrath
Darlene S. McGrath

July 3, 2001
(date of mailing document)

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

[Please amend claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 26 as follows. A clean version of the amended claims is attached with this response.]

Sub C2 >

1. (twice amended) A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, comprising:

(a) a microporous membrane supported only around its periphery by at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said membrane is free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

Sub C3 >

6. (amended) The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket;

wherein the acoustic gasket is bonded to and coextensive with the [assembly] at least one adhesive support system so as to not impede independent movement of the membrane in the unbonded region.

7. (amended) The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the acoustic gasket is bonded only to the periphery of the second surface of the membrane.